

## Squint

Sight is a precious gift, which at times we take for granted. The eyes are our windows to the wonders of the world. The reflected light of an object we are looking at, enters the eye through the crystal clear cornea. The light then passes through the aqueous humour. The pupil will regulate the amount of light rays entering the eyes, while the lens determines the focusing of the image. It will subsequently pass through the vitreous humour, before being projected onto the photoreceptors of the retina where lights are changed into impulses. Impulses from the photoreceptors then converge into the optic nerve, via which the impulses will then be transmitted to the brain, transfigured into imagery, and imbued with meaning.

Single binocular vision is a conditioned reflex. Images from the right eye and left eye will be simultaneously perceived as one image. This is because both images will fall onto the corresponding retinal points of each eye and fuse into a single image at the level of the central nervous system.

Squint is misalignment of the visual axes. Images from the deviated eyes which are projected outside the retinal corresponding areas are perceived simultaneously but not fused as one. In adults, this may result in double vision or diplopia. In children, they may not experience diplopia as they possess an adaptation capability called suppression. Their brain can 'actively neglect' an image from the deviating eye. As a consequence of suppression, children with uncorrected squint may develop amblyopia (lazy eye).

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